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Agenda items 35, 36 and 77

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 September 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The threats of Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership went a step further today when the so-called Israeli security cabinet decided to "remove Yasser Arafat" and asked the Israeli army to draw up a plan for the expulsion of the elected President of the Palestinian Authority. In fact, Israeli occupying forces today seized positions in the Palestinian Ministry of Culture directly adjacent to the compound of President Yasser Arafat in Ramallah.

At this critical juncture it must be firmly an unequivocally stated that the Palestinian land and people are not the property of the occupying Power, and carrying out such an action or even the constant repetition of this threat will be considered an assault on Palestinian national dignity and will signal the virtual demise of any peace process between the two sides. In addition, it is to be recalled that international law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention, is clear in its prohibition of such a war crime.

We believe that the international community must take decisive and quick action in this regard in order to prevent such an illegal and insane act from being carried out by the occupying Power. We call in particular on the Security Council to take the immediate necessary measures in this regard. Further, we believe that the international community must adopt the necessary position in condemnation of all the other war crimes being committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

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The international community cannot continue to stand idly by while this dangerous situation continues its frightening and dangerous decline.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 36 and 77, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations